

What is claimed is:

5           1.       An apparatus comprising a circumferentially extending windage plate adapted for placement adjacent a rotatable surface, the plate comprising an edge surface configured to extend adjacent a movement path of an access element across the rotatable surface, said edge surface supporting a ramp structure adapted to receivingly support said access element at a position away from the rotatable surface.

10           2.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the windage plate is configured coaxially adjacent and substantially parallel to said rotating element.

15           3.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rotatable surface is characterized as a recording surface of a data recording disc and the access element is characterized as a data transducing head of a data storage device.

20           4.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the access element is hydrodynamically supported by fluidic currents established by rotation of the rotatable surface.

25           5.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the edge surface is characterized as a selected one of a leading edge and a trailing edge, wherein the leading edge and the trailing edge cooperate to form a gap area to permit access for the access element.

            6.       The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the ramp structure is supported by said leading edge so that fluidic currents established by rotation of the rotatable surface pass the access element immediately prior to passing the ramp structure.

30           7.       The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the ramp structure is supported by said trailing edge so that fluidic currents established by rotation of the rotatable surface pass the ramp structure immediately prior to passing the access element.

8. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein at least a selected one of the leading and trailing edges comprise a dam comprising a localized increase in thickness as compared to remaining portions of the plate to restrict fluidic flow of fluidic currents established by rotation of said rotatable surface.

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9. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein at least a selected one of the leading and trailing edges comprises a tapered surface comprising a localized decrease in thickness as compared to remaining portions of the plate.

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10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rotatable surface is characterized as a disc surface having an innermost diameter (ID) and an outermost diameter (OD), and wherein the ramp structure is disposed adjacent a selected one of the ID and OD.

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11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ramp structure comprises an inclined surface which is skewed with respect to the movement path of the access element so that the access element passes along the inclined surface as the ramp structure receives said element.

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12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the ramp structure further comprises a latching feature which inhibits movement of the access element along the inclined surface.

13. An apparatus, comprising:  
a rotatable surface;  
an access element moveable along a movement path adjacent the rotatable  
surface;  
5 a stationary, circumferentially extending windage plate adjacent the  
rotatable surface comprising an edge surface disposed adjacent the  
movement path; and  
a ramp structure supported by the edge surface which receivingly supports  
the access element at a position away from the rotatable surface.

10 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the rotatable surface is  
characterized as a recording surface of a data recording disc and the access element  
is characterized as a data transducing head of a data storage device.

15 15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the access element is  
hydrodynamically supported by fluidic currents established by rotation of the  
rotatable surface.

20 16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the edge surface is characterized  
as a selected one of a leading edge and a trailing edge, wherein the leading edge  
and the trailing edge cooperate to form a gap area to permit access for the access  
element.

25 17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the rotatable surface is  
characterized as a disc surface having an innermost diameter (ID) and an outermost  
diameter (OD), and wherein the ramp structure is disposed adjacent a selected one  
of the ID and OD.

30 18. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ramp structure comprises an  
inclined surface which is skewed with respect to the movement path of the access  
element so that the access element passes along the inclined surface as the ramp  
structure receives said element.

19. A data storage device, comprising:
- a rotatable data storage surface;
  - a data transducing head moveable along a movement path adjacent the  
rotatable surface; and
- 5 first means for effecting positioning control of the head during operational  
and deactivated modes of the device.